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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/077,221	02/15/2002	Erich Horn	SWR-0077	3123

7590 09/13/2004
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EXAMINER

YAM, STEPHEN K

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2878

DATE MAILED: 09/13/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/077,221	Applicant(s) HORN ET AL.	
	Examiner Stephen Yam	Art Unit 2878	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 July 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 and 15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 and 15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

This action is in response to Amendments and remarks filed on July 9, 2004. Claims 1-13 and 15 are currently pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-13 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jones et al. US Patent No. 6,363,164 in view of Paraskevagos US Pre-grant Publication No. 2004/0131230.

Regarding Claim 1, Jones et al. teach (see Fig. 1a) a method for performing a test for acceptability in the acceptance of bank notes by automatic teller machines, the method comprising feeding (using (18)) a bank note to a digitalization station (12) via a transport unit (18), at least partially digitizing the bank note to create digitized data (see Col. 5, lines 64-67), comparing (14) the digitized data with a stored data of bank notes (see Col. 15, lines 44-50) belonging to a currency system scanned in ahead of time in a computer unit (see Col. 21, lines 40-48 and Col. 23, lines 20-37), the computer unit performs a determination of value (see Col. 18, lines 16-20 and Col. 20, lines 47-51), and renders an automatic decision regarding acceptability (see Col. 18, lines 15-20), if the automatic decision regarding acceptability is negative (see Col. 12, lines 53-55), generating an image of the digitized data in order to allow its

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visual inspection by a service employee (see Col. 12, lines 53-63), who then renders a final decision regarding acceptability (see Col. 12, lines 64-66). Regarding Claim 2, Jones et al. teach the digitizing of the bank note accomplished by scanning (see Col. 5, lines 61-65). Regarding Claim 3, Jones et al. teach performing an image data comparison in form of data comparison (see Col. 23, lines 21-26). Regarding Claim 5, Jones et al. teach the service employee via keyboard input registering the final decision regarding acceptance (see Col. 12, lines 64-66). Regarding Claim 7, Jones et al. teach (see Fig. 1a) a device used in automatic vending machines to accept bank notes, with a test for acceptability, comprising at least one unit (16) for receiving a bank note, a transport/feed unit (18), a digitization unit (12), a computer unit (10, 15), an image display unit (display within (13)), an input unit (keyboard within (13)), and a unit (16/18/20a) for returning (see Col. 6, lines 22-25), advancing (see Col. 6, lines 11-20), collecting (see Col. 13, lines 23-34), and stacking (see Col. 13, lines 23-34) the bank notes, wherein at least the unit for receiving a bank note and the image display unit are disposed in one location (see Col. 12, line 66 to Col. 13, line 2). Regarding Claim 8, Jones et al. teach the digitalization unit as a scanner (see Col. 5, lines 61-65). Regarding Claim 10, Jones et al. teach the image display unit as a monitor (see Col. 12, lines 63-64). Regarding Claim 11, Jones et al. teach the input unit as a keyboard (see Col. 12, lines 64-66). Regarding Claims 12 and 13, Jones et al. teach supplemental signal units for optical and acoustic indicators (see Col. 12, lines 28-31 and 46-49). Regarding Claim 15, Jones et al. teach (see Fig. 1a) a device used in automatic teller machines to accept bank notes, with a test for acceptability, comprising at least one unit (16) for receiving a bank note, a transport/feed unit (18), a digitization unit (12) for at least partially digitizing the bank note to create digitized data (see Col. 5, lines 61-65), means for comparing (14) the

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digitized data with a stored data of bank notes (see Col. 15, lines 44-50) belonging to a currency system scanned in ahead of time (see Col. 21, lines 40-48 and Col. 23, lines 20-37), an image display unit (display within (13)), an input unit (keyboard within (13)), and a unit (16/18/20a) for returning (see Col. 6, lines 22-25), advancing (see Col. 6, lines 11-20), collecting (see Col. 13, lines 23-34), and stacking (see Col. 13, lines 23-34) the bank notes. Jones et al. do not teach the method and device for an automatic vending machine configured to provide payment for products and services. Paraskevagos teaches a similar method and device, wherein a test for acceptability of bank notes is performed by digitizing the bank note (see paragraph 0011), wherein the method and device is used in either an automatic teller machine or an automatic vending machine configured to provide payment for products and services ("pay bill machine", "vending machine", "video vending machine"- see paragraph 0010). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the method and device of Jones et al. for an automatic vending machine configured to provide payment for products and services, as taught by Paraskevagos, to provide authentication and verification for public bank-note transaction machines to prevent accepting counterfeit currency in such machines.

Regarding Claim 4, Jones et al. in view of Paraskevagos teach the method in Claim 1, according to the appropriate paragraph above. Jones et al. does not teach performing a detailed inspection of adjustable parameters to automatically render a preliminary decision between a direct rejection and an employee decision. It is well known in the art to adjust the brightness and contrast in a scanned image to improve the detectability of image patterns. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to inspect the

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brightness and contrast parameters of the scanned image to render another decision before an employee decision in the method of Jones et al. in view of Paraskevagos, to optimize the scanning process and prevent unnecessary use of human intervention in a mostly-automated process.

Regarding Claim 6, Jones et al. in view of Paraskevagos teach the method in Claim 1, according to the appropriate paragraph above. Jones et al. do not teach automatically marking the area of deviation prompting the negative automatic decision during the generation of the image. It is well known in the art that pattern recognition programs isolate specific areas within a document which encounter recognition problems and ask a user to manually identify the character. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to mark the area of deviation on the scanned image prompting the negative automatic decision in the method of Jones et al. in view of Paraskevagos, to simplify the verification process for the service employee by concentrating on the specific area(s) which encounter the recognition difficulties so the service employee can more easily verify the denomination of the bank note.

Regarding Claim 9, Jones et al. in view of Paraskevagos teach the method in Claim 1, according to the appropriate paragraph above. Jones et al. also teach using various scanning systems including CCD array systems (see Col. 17, lines 46-55), which are also used in digital cameras. Jones et al. do not teach the digitalization unit as a digital camera. It is well known in the art to use a digital camera to capture visual information on a subject of interest. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a

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digital camera for the digitalization unit in the method of Jones et al. in view of Paraskevagos, to provide faster digitalization of the bank note data over conventional scanner systems.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-13 and 15 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

4. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Stephen Yam whose telephone number is (571)272-2449. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8:30am-5pm.


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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Porta can be reached on (571)272-2444. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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THANH X. LUU
PATENT EXAMINER